

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims pending:

- At time of the Action: 2-7, 9-13, 36-59, and 69-95
- After this Response: 2-7, 9-13, 36-59, and 69-95

Currently Amended claims: 6, 12, 36, 46, 69, 74, 78, 80, and 88

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: None

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising automatically removing said at least one command from the display responsive to a change in the user's context.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the application program comprises a document-centric application program and said displaying does not obscure a document in which the user is working.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the application program comprises a document-centric application program and said at least one command is displayed in a modeless fashion in which the user can continue to work within a document while said at least one command is displayed.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising after said displaying, executing a command without requiring any action from a user other than selecting the command.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of exposing commands in a software application program comprising:

determining a user's context within an application program, wherein a user's context can be determined by ascertaining a position of a user's cursor within a document

provided by the application program and by ascertaining text portions that have been selected ~~using the user's cursor by clicking and dragging by the user;~~ and

automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the user based on the user's context, wherein said at least one command is selectable by the user to perform

5 an action on the selected text portions, wherein said automatically displaying is accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with the document and which are used to ascertain when to display said at least one command, and wherein individual expressions are represented in a tree data structure having one or more
10 children nodes, said tree structure evaluating to either true or false based at least in part upon the values of said one or more children nodes.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said determining comprises ascertaining a user's selection within a document provided by the application
15 program.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said context
20 pertains to various tasks the user may attempt to accomplish.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said context further pertains to one or more of the following: a type of document the user is working in and a state of a document the user is working in.
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11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said displaying is independent of a user selecting any displayed menu item.

12. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having
30 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

determine a user's context within an application program, wherein said context is determined via a number of activities including ascertaining text portions that have been selected using a cursor controlled by the user ~~click-and-drag selected by the user~~;

5 automatically display, independent of the user selecting any displayed menu item, at least one command on a display for the user based on the user's context, said at least one command being displayed in a modeless fashion in which the user can continue to work within a document provided by the application program while said at least one command is displayed, and wherein said at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on the selected text portions; and

10 automatically remove said at least one command from the user's display responsive to a change in the user's context,

wherein said automatically display and automatically remove are accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with the application and are used to
15 ascertain when to display said at least one command, and wherein individual expressions are represented in a tree data structure which evaluates to either true or false based upon the value of one or more children nodes in the tree data structure.

13. (Original) The computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein the
20 computer determines the user's context by one or more of the following:

ascertaining a position of a user's cursor within a document provided by the application program; and

ascertaining a user's selection within a document provided by the application program.

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14.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of exposing commands in a software application program comprising:

30 determining a user's context within an application program, wherein the user's context can include text portions that have been selected using a cursor controlled by the

~~user click-and-drag selected by the user~~, wherein said determining is performed by evaluating at least portions of one or more expressions, each expression being associated with a context block and defining a condition that describes one or more aspects of a user's interaction with the application program, wherein individual expressions comprise tree-based visibility expressions, and wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are boolean expressions represented in a tree data structure; and

automatically displaying, independent of a user selecting any displayed menu item, at least one context block on a display for the user based on the user's context, individual context blocks containing multiple commands that are possible selections for a user based upon their context, wherein at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on the selected text portions.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the expressions evaluate to Boolean values.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein a user's context can be affected by one or more of the following: a document type, a document state, and objects within a document that can be selected by the user.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said displaying comprises displaying a context block having a title bar area that labels the context block.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the title bar area is configured to enable the context block to be toggled between expanded and collapsed states.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the title bar area comprises a menu display button that is configured to enable a menu that is associated with the context block to be displayed.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the menu display button is associated with a menu that contains links to one or more context panes, each context pane comprising additional context-sensitive commands.

5 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said displaying comprises displaying a context block with a controls area that exposes the multiple commands to the user.

10 44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein a command display within the controls area is defined in HTML.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said displaying comprises displaying said at least one context block in a modeless fashion.

15 46. (Currently Amended) A method of exposing commands in a software application program comprising:

determining a user's context within an application program without requiring the user to make a menu selection, wherein said context can include text portions that have been selected using a cursor controlled by the user ~~click-and-drag-selected by the user~~,
20 wherein said determining is accomplished, at least in part, using tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions define conditions that describe a user's interactions with said application program, and wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are represented in a tree data structure having one or more children nodes, said tree structure evaluating to either true or false based at least in part
25 upon the values of said one or more children nodes;

based on the user's context, displaying commands that are associated with the context and which can assist the user in accomplishing a task; and

while the commands are being displayed, enabling the user to select and apply various commands to the selected text portions multiple times.

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47. (Original) The method of claim 46 further comprising applying one or more selected commands, when selected by a user, without further user interaction.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said displaying comprises
5 displaying the commands responsive to the user selecting from a menu that is supported by an automatically-appearing and disappearing context block that contains context-sensitive commands.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said displaying comprises
10 displaying the commands in a modeless manner.

50. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said displaying comprises displaying the commands within a context pane having a title bar that labels the context pane and a controls area that exposes the commands to the user.
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51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the context pane is not collapsible.

52. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the context pane must be
20 closed by the user.

53. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the user must request the context pane to be displayed.

54. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein some of the commands in the controls area can be context-sensitive and are disabled if they are out of context.
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55. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the context pane includes a context-sensitive help feature that displays help information that is contextually related to a context pane.
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56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the help feature is accessible via an icon on the title bar.

5 57. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the help feature is displayed in a modeless manner.

58. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein multiple context panes are stackable in a queue.

10 59. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method of claim 46.

60.-68. (Cancelled).

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69. (Currently Amended) A computing system comprising:

a single application program configured to provide:

a single navigable window;

multiple different functionalities to which the single navigable window

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can be navigated by a user; and

at least one context-sensitive command area that is associated with the single navigable window, the single application program being configured to automatically change command sets that are presented to the user within the command area as the user navigates to different functionalities, at least some commands of the command sets being displayable independent of the user selecting any displayed menu item and as a function of one or more tree-based visibility expressions that define conditions that describe a user's interactions with the single application program, wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are boolean expressions represented in a tree data structure, wherein
30 said interactions include text portions that have been selected using a cursor controlled by the user, and wherein at least one command is selectable by the user

to perform an action on the selected text portions ~~click and drag selected by the~~
user.

70. (Original) The computing system of claim 69, wherein the single
5 application program is configured to provide navigation instrumentalities associated with
the single navigable window, the navigation instrumentalities being configured for use by
the user to navigate the single window to the different functionalities.

71. (Original) The computing system of claim 70, wherein one of the
10 navigation instrumentalities comprises links associated with each of the multiple different
functionalities to which the single navigable window can be navigated.

72. (Original) The computing system of claim 70, wherein one of the
navigation instrumentalities comprises browser-like navigation buttons that can be used,
15 in connection with the navigation model, to navigate the single navigable window
between the different functionalities.

73. (Original) The computing system of claim 69, wherein the multiple
different functionalities comprise document-centric functionalities.
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74. (Currently Amended) A computing system comprising:
a single application program embodied on a computer-readable medium, the
single application being configured to:
display a single navigable window for a user to use in navigating between
25 multiple different functionalities that can be provided by the single application program;
provide at least one context-sensitive command area that is associated with the
single navigable window, the single application program automatically changing
command sets that are presented to the user within the command area as the user
navigates to different functionalities, at least some commands of the command sets being
30 displayable independent of the user selecting any displayed menu item and as a function
of one or more tree-based visibility expressions that define conditions that describe a

user's interactions with the single application program, wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are boolean expressions represented in a tree data structure, wherein said interactions include text portions that can be selected using a cursor controlled by the user, and wherein at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on

5 the selected text portions ~~click-and-drag selected by the user~~; and

incorporate different functionalities in an extensible manner so that the user can use the single navigable window to navigate to the different incorporated functionalities.

75. (Original) The computing system of claim 74, wherein the single
10 application program is configured to provide navigation instrumentalities associated with the single navigable window, the navigation instrumentalities being configured for use by the user to navigate the single window to the different functionalities.

76. (Original) The computing system of claim 75, wherein one of the
15 navigation instrumentalities comprises links associated with each of the multiple different functionalities to which the single navigable window can be navigated.

77. (Original) The computing system of claim 75, wherein one of the
20 navigation instrumentalities comprises browser-like navigation buttons that can be used to navigate the single navigable window between different functionalities.

78. (Currently Amended) A computing method comprising:
displaying a user interface that comprises a single navigable window that can be
navigated between multiple different functionalities that are provided by a single
25 application program;

receiving user input that indicates selection of a particular functionality;
responsive to receiving said user input, navigating the single navigable window to
the particular selected functionality and displaying in said window indicia of said
functionality that can enable a user to accomplish a task associated with the particular
30 selected functionality;

determining a user's context within the selected functionality, wherein said context can include a number of activities including whether one or more text portions have been selected using a cursor controlled by the user ~~click-and-drag-selected-by-the user~~, wherein said determining is performed by using one or more tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual tree-based expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with said selected functionality, and wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are boolean expressions represented in a tree data structure; and

automatically displaying at least one command for the user based on the user's context independent of the user selecting any displayed menu item, wherein said at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on the one or more selected text portions.

79. (Original) The computing method of claim 78 further comprising automatically removing said at least one command from the display responsive to change in the user's context.

80. (Currently Amended) A method of exposing commands in a software application program comprising:

determining a user's context within an application program by ascertaining a user's selection within a document provided by the application program, wherein said selection can comprise a plurality of selection activities including text portions that have been selected using a cursor controlled by the user ~~click-and-drag-selected-by-the user~~, said determining further being performed by using one or more tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with said document, and wherein individual tree-based visibility expressions are represented in a tree data structure which evaluates to either true or false based upon the value of one or more children nodes in the tree data structure; and

automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the user based on the user's context, wherein said at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on the selected text portions.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 further comprising automatically removing said at least one command from the display responsive to a change in the user's context.

5 82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the application program comprises a document-centric application program and said displaying does not obscure a document in which the user is working.

10 83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the application program comprises a document-centric application program and said at least one command is displayed in a modeless fashion in which the user can continue to work within a document while said at least one command is displayed.

15 84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80 further comprising after said displaying, executing a command without requiring any action from a user other than selecting the command.

20 85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said context pertains to various tasks the user may attempt to accomplish.

 86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said context further pertains to one or more of the following: a type of document the user is working in and a state of a document the user is working in.

25 87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said displaying is independent of a user selecting any displayed menu item.

88. (Currently Amended) A method of exposing commands in a software application program comprising:

determining a user's context within an application program, wherein said context includes whether or not a user has selected a text portion using a cursor controlled by the
5 user click-and-drag selected a text portion, wherein said determining is performed by using, at least in part, one or more tree-based visibility expressions, wherein individual expressions define conditions associated with a user's interaction with the application program, and wherein individual expressions are represented in a tree data structure having one or more children nodes, said tree structure evaluating to either true or false
10 based at least in part upon the values of said one or more children nodes; and

automatically displaying at least one command on a display for the user based on the user's context, independent of a user selecting any displayed menu item, wherein said
at least one command is selectable by the user to perform an action on the selected text
portion.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88 further comprising automatically removing said at least one command from the display responsive to a change in the user's context.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the application program comprises a document-centric application program and said displaying does not obscure a document in which the user is working.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the application
25 program comprises a document-centric application program and said at least one command is displayed in a modeless fashion in which the user can continue to work within a document while said at least one command is displayed.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88 further comprising after
30 said displaying, executing a command without requiring any action from a user other than selecting the command.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said context pertains to various tasks the user may attempt to accomplish.

5 94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said context pertains to one or more of the following: a type of document the user is working in and a state of a document the user is working in.

10 95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein each individual expression is represented in a different tree data structure.